



Intelligence Information Cable

IN 744662

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PLANS

Classified by Recorded Reporting Officer, Exempt from General Declassification Schedule of E.O. 11652 Exemption Category 5B (1), (2). Impossible to Determine Date of Automatic Declassification.

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

DIST 27 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM
DOI 26 OCTOBER 172
SUBJECT COMMENTS OF PHONG DINH PROVINCE CHIEF ON ENEMY
PREPARATIONS FOR CEASEFIRE AND GOVERNMENT COUNTER-
PLANNING

ACQ VIETNAM, CAN THO (26 OCTOBER 1972)

1. ON 26 OCTOBER 1972, COLONEL LE NGOC D A Y, WHO WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF PHONG DINH PROVINCE ON 28 AUGUST, SAID THAT THE ENEMY IN PHONG DINH INTENDS TO INTERDICT AND HOLD POSITIONS ALONG ROUTES QL-4 AND 31 IN PHUNG HIEP AND THUAN NHON DISTRICTS SOUTH OF CAN THO CITY, AND TO OCCUPY AND CONTROL POPULATED AREAS IN PREPARATION FOR A CEASEFIRE. THE 303RD AND 307TH BATTALIONS OF THE ENEMY D-1 REGIMENT HAVE RECENTLY INFILTRATED INTO PHUNG HIEP AND THUAN NHON, BUT COL. DAY BELIEVES HIS TERRITORIAL FORCES

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CAN PREVENT INTERDICTION OF THE TWO ROADS AND ANY PERMANENT ENEMY OCCUPATION OF POPULATED CENTERS. HE SAID THE ENEMY HAS NO CAPABILITY TO MOUNT A SERIOUS ATTACK AGAINST CAN THO CITY.

2. IN DISCUSSING PREPARATIONS FOR A CEASEFIRE, COL. DAY SAID "WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE 1954 AGREEMENT IN NORTH VIETNAM AND THE 1962 AGREEMENT IN LAOS THAT THE COMMUNIST DO NOT ADHERE TO CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS AND THAT THEY WILL USE ALL METHODS TO FURTHER THEIR CONTROL OF POPULATION AND TERRITORY AND ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL AIMS." HE ADDED, "WE WILL NOT BE FOOLED THIS TIME." DAY DID NOT OUTLINE GOVERNMENT PLANS EXCEPT TO SAY THAT REGIONAL AND POPULAR FORCES (RF/PF) WOULD BE USED TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE POPULATION CENTERS AND THAT ALL NECESSARY MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN. HE SAID THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME WOULD BE FROM THE

DATE OF THE DECLARATION OF THE CEASEFIRE UNTIL AN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL GROUP ARRIVES.

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3. COL. DAY BELIEVES THAT THE ENEMY MAIN FORCE REGIMENTS IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE AND THE U MINH FOREST WILL BE DISPERSED AMONG THE LOCAL FORCES BEFORE A CEASEFIRE. SOME

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NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) SOLDIERS MAY BE ORDERED TO DISCARD THEIR UNIFORMS AND BLEND WITH THE POPULATION. DAY SAID A GROUP OF NO MORE THAN 100 NVA SOLDIERS FROM THE 18B AND 95A REGIMENTS MIGHT BE ASSEMBLED, SHOWN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION, AND SENT BACK TO NORTH VIETNAM TO DEMONSTRATE COMMUNIST ADHERENCE TO THEIR COMMITMENTS. (SOURCE COMMENT: THE CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF SAID ENEMY MAIN FORCE REGIMENTS HAD ALREADY BEGUN DISPERSING AND JOINING VC LOCAL FORCES IN PREPARATION FOR A CEASE-FIRE.)

4. COL. DAY SAID HE WAS "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" AT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RF AND PF, WHO ARE OVER 100 PERCENT OF AUTHORIZED STRENGTH, AND SAID THEY WERE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (ARVN) 21ST DIVISION. THE MORALE OF TERRITORIAL FORCES IS GOOD AND THEY REALIZE THE FINAL EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM GAINING CONTROL OF DISPUTED AREAS. HE SAID COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA TELLING RF AND PF SOLDIERS TO RETURN HOME AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CEASEFIRE WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE.

5. (SOURCE COMMENT: FOLLOWING HIS GRADUATION FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE IN 1971 COL. DAY WAS ASSIGNED AS DEPUTY

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COMMANDER OF THE ARVN 21ST DIVISION, ONLY TO BE REASSIGNED THREE WEEKS LATER AS PHONG DINH PROVINCE CHIEF WHEN THE FORMER PROVINCE CHIEF TOOK OVER COMMAND OF THE 21ST DIVISION.)

6. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE AT SAIGON;
SENT TO CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT PARIS.

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REPORT CLASS S E C R E T

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